



Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2017

9:30 AM

1700 West Washington Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

A meeting of the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission convened on September 28, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. at 1700 West Washington Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Phoenix, Arizona 85007. Present and absent were the following members of the Commission:

Members Present

Cindi Nannetti, Chair	James Molina
Mindy Flannery	Myrtle Young
Joseph Grossman	Heather Carter
Jason Holmberg	Dennis Pickering
Jane Kallal	Shawn Cox
Debra Olson	Helen Gándara
Robert Brutinel	Alice Bustillo
Rob Lubitz	Robert Thomas
Christina Schopen	Leslie Quinn
Don Walker	

Members Absent

Tom Callahan	Shaun Rieve
Dan Goldfine	Greg McKay
Jose Gonzales	James Beene
Joseph Kelroy	Dorothy Wodraska
Vada Phelps	Guadalupe Durazo

Staff and Guests Present

Katheryn Blades (OBO Greg McKay)	Rev. Sunee Robinson
Myriah Mhoon, GOYFF	Ben Robinson
John Raeder, GOYFF	Hugh Wolf
Steve Selover, GOYFF	Roy Dawson
Amanda Webb, Americorps VISTA	Michael Carleton
Lindsay Cotton, Americorps VISTA	Jeffrey Wennar
LeAnn Hull	Charles Reidhead
Craig Dean	Eddie Tantoco
Mariana Torres	Frank Crump
Marguerite Muhammed	Cozetta LaMore
Dana L. Burnes	Susan Towne
Warren H. Stewart	

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Cindi Nannetti called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

B. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Nannetti requested introductions by all present.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the meeting held June 8, 2017 were reviewed. Mr. Joseph Grossman moved that the minutes be approved as drafted. Mr. Dennis Pickering seconded the motion. Motion passed on unanimous vote.

D. TITLE II PROGRAM PRESENTATION – JUVENILE JUSTICE FAMILY SERVICES

Ms. Susan Towne presented on the Juvenile Justice Family Services Liaison program funded by the JJDPa Title II formula grant. The program is conducted out of the Pima County Juvenile Court Center in Pima County. Ms. Towne provided an overview of services provided to youth and parents, which include outreach to engage parents, staffing cases with juvenile probation officers, collaboration with other agencies and committees, and the facilitation of several evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions including Parenting Wisely, Power of Parents and Strengthening Families to address behaviors, communication, domestic violence, substance abuse and other issues to promote life skills for youth.

The Pima County Alternative Community Engagement Services (ACES) Center serves as a forum for the provision of domestic violence programming and utilizes the Kids at Hope philosophy, which recognizes that “all children are capable of success, no exceptions!”. Ms. Towne collaborates with organizations such as Arizona Youth Partnership, the Pima County Community Prevention Coalition, and Higher Ground.

Mr. James Molina asked if Parenting Wisely materials were available to the public. Ms. Towne stated that the DVD’s are available for purchase on the Parenting Wisely website.

E. ANDY HULL’S SUNSHINE FOUNDATION

Ms. LeAnn Hull, who lost her son to suicide, described her organization’s suicide prevention program for children in schools and their efforts to ensure youth believe that they matter. Ms. Hull explained the genesis of her organization and some of the techniques she uses to connect with her audiences. Ms. Hull also critiqued the general public’s inability to discuss suicide as it is the second leading cause of death for teenagers. She asked the commission to look at this issue with the same urgency as is provided to drug abuse. Ms. Hull indicated that funding would be helpful for purchasing the “You Matter” wristbands and funding curriculum used to engage youth. The presentation ended with Ms. Hull reciting the “You Matter” pledge given during her community presentations.

Ms. Nannetti asked why news outlets tend to devote minimal coverage to teen suicide. Ms. Hull presumed that schools are uncomfortable informing the public when a suicide occurs on campus, and administrators at times may try to mask the issue to prevent negative attention.

F. ARIZONA GANG INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION

Sgt. Michael Carleton, president of the Arizona Gang Investigators Association (AZGIA), provided an overview of the organization and how it works to reduce gang activity in the state through education, intervention and enforcement. Sgt. Carleton emphasized the necessity of using all three approaches and gave examples of communities with greater gang activity that utilize only one or two of these elements. Activities conducted by the AZGIA include the provision of six to ten trainings annually, sponsoring anti-bullying efforts and other prevention efforts to reduce gang involvement. Sgt. Carleton described how the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) research has been used to understand the psychology of gang involvement and provide a framework for intervention efforts. Sgt. Carleton added that the most recent Arizona Youth Survey, provided to middle and high school students, showed that the highest ranked problem identified by students was gangs. Sgt. Carleton ended his presentation by stating that most at-risk children can be deterred from gang involvement with proper influence and attention to their needs, and it can take just one positive role model to change a child's life.

G. CHILDREN'S JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Ms. Myriah Mhoon, GOYFF, presented on the Children's Justice (CJ) Act state survey results provided at the CJ annual conference in August. Ms. Mhoon referenced survey outcomes that compared states' administration of CJ federal funds, the statewide makeup of the CJ Taskforce and the types of programming funded by CJ federal awards. Ms. Mhoon stated that the survey is useful to help states view how the limited funds may be used to conduct CJ activities around the country.

Mr. Grossman asked about the status of rollover funds. Ms. Mhoon responded that while rollover funds have been used in the past to award additional programs, the trend of CJ subgrantees spending their entire award is increasing, which reduces the amount of money that can be used for additional projects.

H. STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Steve Selover advised that the annual renewal for Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) membership is due and explained the role of CJJ in providing training webinars, conferences and their role in advocating for juvenile justice funding in Congress. Mr. Rob Lubitz noted that the commission has been a member of CJJ for many years due to their role in promoting juvenile justice reform on a national scale. Ms. Nannetti echoed Mr. Lubitz's statement of the CJJ function in communicating the importance of funding for prevention and treatment to Congress. Mr. Lubitz moved to approve utilizing commission funds to purchase a one-year CJJ membership. Mr. Molina seconded the motion. Motion carried by a consensus of 17-1 to approve.

Mr. Selover advised that the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention conducted an onsite audit of the state's system for monitoring compliance of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act core requirements. Mr. Selover noted that the visit went well with very few concerns expressed by the DOJ audit team. Mr. John Raeder added that the auditors expressed their desire to showcase Arizona's system as a best practice model for compliance monitoring. Mr. Selover stated that the audit report containing findings and/or recommendations will be issued within the coming months.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

• Child Welfare Committee

Mr. Molina, Child Welfare Committee Chair, provided an update on the committee's work to develop an interagency council that addresses community needs for responding to child abuse and sexual assault. Mr. Molina stated that the Department of Child Safety is supporting a newly created child abuse prevention council in south Phoenix that could potentially serve as a forum for working with the community on these issues. Mr. Molina also advised that the committee is working on developing a method for determining what type of trauma training is needed for various practitioners working with youth and, in addition, a method for codifying the various types of training to make it easier to determine what level of training is needed for different professionals and even parents within the general public.

• Systems Improvement Committee

Mr. Selover provided an update to the status of the Information Sharing Guide, noting that legal staff from agencies referenced in the guide is still reviewing and providing input to ensure the manual is accurate. Mr. Grossman added that the committee is working on ways to ensure the most feasible way to disseminate the guide, noting it would be more accessible and cost-effective to release the manual in electronic format rather than printing off numerous hard copies for statewide distribution. Ms. Nannetti recommended obtaining feedback from those who will use this guide to help the committee understand the most desired format from the practitioners themselves.

• DMC/Compliance Committee

Ms. Helen Gandara stated that the committee has not met since the last committee update. Ms. Gandara stated that the next committee meeting will involve a review of the compliance audit and discuss the potential impact of new federal policy rules for monitoring the core requirements of the JJDP Act.

• Children's Justice Assessment Committee

Ms. Mhoon advised the committee met for the first time to discuss potential ways to address recommendations listed in the most recent Children's Justice assessment. Ms. Mhoon provided some of the initial ideas discussed, including a possible conference for Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs).

J. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Heather Carter stated she will be chairing an ad-hoc committee to address the Adobe Mountain facility and plans to reach out to GOYFF to request a presentation on the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission.

Mr. Raeder asked members to attend the Lighting Arizona Purple event and referenced a flyer for the event in the commissioners' packets.

K. UPCOMING AJJC MEETING DATES

Ms. Nannetti asked members to put the next two meeting dates, December 7 and March 1, on their calendars.

J. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. Cozetta LaMore, Choices Interlinking, made a statement regarding race disparity and suicide in the juvenile justice system.

Mr. Roy Dawson, Arizona Center for African American Children, made a statement regarding the need for increased advocacy for African American children.

Warren Stewart, First Institutional Baptist Church, made a statement regarding the church's vision for minority youth.

Mr. Frank Crum, UPI Education, made a statement regarding the need for greater African American representation on the commission and offered assistance on behalf of his agency.

Mr. Ben Robinson, ASU/FOZ, made a statement regarding the importance of cultural awareness education.

Rev. Sunee Robinson, AZCAAR, made a statement requesting action to address the overrepresentation of African Americans in the juvenile justice system.

Marguerite Muhammed, Black Mothers Forum, made a statement regarding her desire to have members of the forum participate in discussions to address disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system.

Mr. Eddie Tantoco, Global Wellness Care Centers, made a statement regarding interest by the organization for participation of their scientists and doctors to provide resources to improve the health of those served in the juvenile justice system.

L. ADJOURN

Ms. Nannetti adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.